

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 03395 021508Z

43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIE-00 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /157 W
----- 015257

O R 021425Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8092

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 3395

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: VISIT MINDEF DOUKARA - TRUCKS

REF: STATE 215901

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BAMAKO'S 2678 ADVISING AGAINST LEASING AND PURCHASING TRUCKS FOR MALI RELIEF BASED ON ABIDJAN'S 5969 THAT INDICATED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS BEING LEASED BY GOM EVEN THOUGH DOUKARA HAD EARLIER ASSURED CHARGE THAT SUITABLE TRUCKS FOR LEASING NOT AVAILABLE IN WEST AFRICA. PRESSING PROBLEM IN AUGUST WAS TO ENSURE MORE TRUCKS FOR TIMBUKTU AND LESSER EXTENT FOR GAO. THAT IMMEDIATE PROBLEM ALLEVIATED BY GOM PURCHASE 34 BERLIET TRUCKS AND ARRIVAL 10 TRUCKS GIFT FROM WEST GERMANY. BELIEVE THAT DOUKARA STILL HAS VALID ARGUMENT FOR MORE TRUCKS BECAUSE LEASING IS FOR HAULING FROM COAST TO MOPTI BUT NOT IN SIXTH REGION WHERE ROADS VIRTUALLY IMPASSABLE OR NON-EXISTANT AND REQUIRE HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES WITH LARGE SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS, AND ARMY PERSONNEL WHO ONLY ONES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BAMAKO 03395 021508Z

WILLING TO USE AND TRAVERSE DESERT TO REACH REMOTE VILLAGES

WHERE FOOD REQUIREMENTS ARE GREATEST. ON REFLECTION, DOUKARA'S CLAIM THAT NO SUITABLE TRUCKS AVAILABLE FOR LEASING MAY BE CORRECT IN SENSE THAT LEASED CIVILIAN TRUCKS NOT SUITABLE FOR OPERATING IN SIXTH REGION IN REMOTE AREAS.

B. ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION MUST BE YES IN SENSE THAT ALL MINISTRIES HAVE CLEAR NEED FOR MORE VEHICLES AND WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT MALI ROAD CONDITIONS AND LACK OF BUDGET FOR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE ACCELERATE NEED FOR NEW VEHICLES.

C. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AND TO COLLECT IT THROUGH NON-OFFICIAL DISCREET PERSONAL INVESTIGATION WOULD BE A LONG AND UNCERTAIN PROCESS. MINDEFENSE STATED IN HIS JUSTIFICATION FOR 50 HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS THAT OUT OF A MILITARY TRUCK POOL OF 100 TRUCKS ONLY 20 WERE SUITABLE FOR TRANSPORTING FOOD IN SIXTH REGION. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR WHO MADE TIMBUKTU-GAO TRIP BY LANDROVER THAT FOOD APPEARED AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES IN VILLAGES THAT HE PASSED THROUGH SITUATED ALONG THE NIGER RIVER. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHOSE FAMILY FROM SIXTH REGION VILLAGE CLAIMS SITUATION HAS IMPROVED FOR HIS RELATIVES THERE. UN ADVISOR TRAVELING IN REMOTE AREA NORTH OF GAO DID NOTICE GOM MILITARY VEHICLES DISTRIBUTING GRAIN. FOREGOING EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT NOTWITHSTANDING OCCASIONAL UNSUBSTANTIATED GOSSIP TO THE CONTRARY, THE GOM AND ARMY HAS MADE CREDITABLE EFFORT RELIEVE SUFFERING AMONG NOMADS SIXTH REGION. THEREFORE, EMBASSY INCLINED BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL TRUCKS FROM U.S. WOULD BE PLEDGED TO DROUGHT RELIEF IF PROVIDED. ULTIMATELY ONLY ASSURANCE THAT CAN BE GIVEN ABOUT USE OF VEHICLES MUST REST ON GENERAL CONSENSUS HERE THAT MINISTER DEFENSE HAS DONE EFFECTIVE JOB IN MEETING DROUGHT EMERGENCY BASED ON NUMEROUS VISITS BY EMBASSY AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS SIXTH REGION. HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE INAPPROPRIATE IF SITUATION PRESENTS ITSELF TO MAKE POINT WITH DOUKARA THAT SINCE PUBLIC SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO CONTINUED RELIEF AID, SPLENDID RELIEF EFFORTS HE HAS ACHIEVED TO DATE BE MAINTAINED ESPECIALLY AS INCREASED AID BECOMES AVAILABLE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BAMAKO 03395 021508Z

D. GOM OFFICIALS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT NEED FOR AIRLIFT NEXT YEAR (MINISTER OF PRODUCTION) BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT HARVEST AND PROBABLY CUT-OFF RIVER NAVIGATION BY DEC. IF THIS IS CASE AND AIRLIFT IS RESUMED EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION AND PLANNING BEGIN NOW FOR AIRLIFTING VEHICLES ON ROTATION C-130S THAT MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE NEXT YEAR.
KUNIHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAMAKO03395
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabrpk.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 215901
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT MINDEF DOUKARA - TRUCKS
TAGS: EAID, ML, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005